FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

5 DECEMBER 1984

Hijacking of Kuwaiti Airliner

The hijacked Kuwaiti airliner remained at Tehran's Mehrabad Airport on the morning of 5 December, with the hijackers demanding that Kuwait release a number of prisoners and asking for flight facilities to leave Tehran for an unknown destination, IRNA reported. Earlier, the hijackers separated American passengers from the others and identified the passenger killed on 4 december as a U.S. diplomat, according to the agency. The total number of released passengers has reached 67, including 3 crew members. Most of the passengers are Pakistanis, according to Karachi radio. As for the identity of the hijackers, one of the released passengers said they had identified themselves as Palestinians, IRNA reported. AFP also cited reports that the men are Palestinians and noted that an anonymous caller told a press agency in Beirut that the hijacking was staged by the "September 17th organization," a name derived from the date of the Sabra-Shatila massacre. The caller warned "the Kuwaiti princes against any measure affecting Palestinians and Arabs living in Kuwait," adding that "we will strike again." However, the Kuwaiti daily *AL-WATAN* subsequently cited reports that the hijackers are Lebanese and belong to the "Hezbollah" Shi'ite group, according to KUNA. While the paper said the hijackers had boarded the plane at Dubai, a Dubai police official claimed that the passengers who boarded the plane there could not have brought weapons or ammunition aboard the plane because they were subjected to an "impeccable" security check, QNA reported.

Jordan

The Black September organization claimed responsibility for the 4 December assassination of a Jordanian diplomat in Bucharest, asserting in a call to AFP that the organization has resumed its "revolutionary activities" and accusing the Amman regime of "plotting with the traitor 'Arafat against the Palestinian people." Bucharest's AGERPRES confirmed that a student of Palestinian origin carried out the shooting, adding that he is known by his colleagues to be mentally unbalanced.

Iran-Iraq Conflict

The Iraqi Air Force carried out another attack on shipping in the Gulf, scoring "accurate hits" in a raid on a "large maritime target" south of Khark Island, according to a military communique broadcast by Baghdad radio. Iraqi warplanes were also in action against Iranian ground targets in the Maysan and central sectors of the battlefront, the communique added. Monitored Iranian media have not mentioned an Iraqi attack on shipping on 4 December.

Lebanese Security Plan

Implementation of the plan to deploy the Lebanese Army along the coastal highway has been postponed until next week because of Progressive Socialist Party (PSP) leader Walid Junblatt's reservations, Voice of Lebanon radio reported. Earlier, in a statement broadcast by the clandestine Voice of the Mountain Radio, the PSP expressed support for the Army's deployment toward the south but warned that it refuses to allow the exploitation of this objective in order to attain Phalangist gains in the Al-Kharrub and Mountain regions. In this regard, the PSP accused the Phalangists of attempting to use the security plan as a "Trojan horse" in order to gain in peace what they lost in war. Meanwhile, Syria's *TISHRIN* stressed that implementing the security plan is the responsibility of all the Lebanese sides and accused "the Camp David plotters, led by 'Arafat" of attempting to undermine it, according to Damascus radio.

PLO

Arriving in Kuwait from Riyadh, PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat met with the Kuwaiti amir and then with the prime minister, KUNA reported.

In Syria, Palestine Liberation Army (PLA) units completed a training exercise with live ammunition, Damascus radio revealed. At the end of the exercise, PLA "Chief of Staff" Brigadier General Muhammad Tariq Al-Khadra urged the participants to be prepared to foil attempts by the enemies of the Palestinian people and the "defeatists who replaced the gun with an alliance with capitulatory regimes," the radio added.

Syria-USSR

A Syrian delegation headed by Electricity Minister Kamil Baba concluded talks with Soviet officials in Moscow on a number of technical cooperation issues, including the establishment of a nuclear power station in Syria, SANA reported.

Israeli-Egyptian Relations

Israel intends to seek clarification from Egypt over the latter's "unacceptable" statements on the Camp David accords contained in the recent Egyptian-Jordanian joint communique, according to an Israeli Foreign Ministry official cited by Jerusalem radio. Meanwhile, the Egyptian charge d'affaires in Israel confirmed that preparations are being made for a summit meeting between the Egyptian and Israeli leaders, the radio noted.

Afghanistan

A Foreign Ministry spokesman cited by BAKHTAR accused the Pakistani Army of further cross-border shelling, asserting that shells fell in Konarha and Paktia Provinces on 1, 2, and 3 December. In response, the Foreign Ministry summoned the Pakistani charge d'affaires in Kabul and informed him that the DRA regards this "repeated aggression" by Pakistan as a "new dimension to the undeclared war against Afghanistan," adding

that the DRA reserves the right to take the necessary measures to defend its sovereignty, according to BAKHTAR.

In a separate development, Kabul radio announced that the DRA authorities have decided to remit the remaining prison terms of a number of prisoners to mark the Prophet's birthday.

Pakistan

The 11-party Movement for the Restoration of Democracy called for a boycott of the 19 December referendum and appealed to the people to foil the exploitation of Islam by President Ziaul Haq, Delhi radio reported.

Western Sahara

In a letter to Moroccan King Hassan II, SDAR President Mohamed Abdelaziz called for a negotiated peace to end the conflict between the two countries for the sake of the nations in the area, Algiers radio disclosed.

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Foreign Ministry Protests Pakistani Border Attacks

LD041446 Kabul BAKHTAR in Dari 1415 GMT 4 Dec 84

[Text] Kabul, 4 Dec (BAKHTAR) — A Ministry of Foreign Affairs spokesman said today that the military forces of Pakistan, on the nights of 1, 2 and 3 December, again fired heavy and long-range weapons on Barikowt region, in Konarha Province, and Ali Kheyl in Paktia Province. As a result of this savage [words indistinct] one person in Ali Kheyl was seriously wounded and heavy material losses were inflicted in both regions.

In connection with this aggression, [words indistinct] in charge of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs today summoned the charge d'affaires of the Pakistani Embassy in Kabul and informed him that the DRA regards this repeated aggression by Pakistani forces as a new dimension to the undeclared war against Afghanistan. The DRA strongly condemns and denounces these acts and strongly protests [words indistinct] Pakistan.

The DRA once again reminds the responsible Pakistani authorites that they should prevent such acts before they further aggravate the situation along the border areas of the two countries, because such acts have undesirable effects on peace and security in the region. They should end such armed aggression and hostile provocations, the responsibility of which totally rests with the Pakistani authorities. The DRA reserves its rights to take necessary measures to defend its sovereignty and territorial integrity.

Prisoners To Be Released To Mark Prophet's Birthday

LD041629 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 4 Dec 84

[Text] On the occasion of the auspicious birth anniversary of the Prophet Mohammad, peace be upon him, the Presidium of the DRA Revolutionary Council has remitted the remaining prison terms of a number of male and female prisoners in the capital and in the provinces. The Secretariate of the DRA Revolutionary Council Presidium reports that the decree concerning the release of these prisoners has been sent to the relevant departments.

AAPSO Conference Message to People, Government

LD041214 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0442 GMT 4 Dec 84

[Text] Kabul, December 3, BAKHTAR — Following message to the people and Government of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan, adopted by the AAPSO conference on the New International Information Order held in Kabul.

"We, the participants of the AAPSO conference on the New International Information Order held in Kabul from 29 November to 2 December, 1984, send our warmest greetings to the people and Government of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan, led by the People' Democratic Party of Afghanistan.

"Voicing the sentiments of the millions of people of Asia, Africa and Latin America, and the world over we express our solidarity with the Afghan people who have embarked on a new path of socio-economic transformation of (?society) following April Revolution. We wish them ever greater successes in building a happy and prosperous life for their people free from exploitation of man by man.

"The imperialist forces, the U.S. imperialism in particular, enemies of revolutionary transformations of any country of society, have been engaged in launching a systematic campaign of slander and lies against the people and Government of Afghanistan ever since the victory of the April Revolution. Aided by their accomplices in the region, an undeclared war is being waged by imperialism against the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan.

"The brutal intervention by imperialism and reaction against Afghanistan aimed at thwarting the process of socio-economic development of the country, increasing tension in the region and undermining the sovereignty, security and territorial integrity of non-aligned Afghanistan.

"The participants fully support the inalienable right of the people of the DRA to defend their national independence, territorial integrity and the achievements of the April Revolution. They assure the people of Afghanistan that they will communicate to the world public the realities of the Afghan revolution and society. The participants consider that the realistic and constructive proposals and initiatives as concretely formulated by the DRA for the normalization of the situation around Afghanistan and for the development of the mutually beneficial relations with the neighboring countries are manifestations of the peaceful policy of the DRA and its adherence to the policy of peaceful coexistence.

"They support the efforts of the UN Secretary General to arrange the dialogue between Afghanistan and Pakistan with the purpose of normalizing the situation around Afghanistan.

"While denouncing the information imperialism speakers strongly condemned the psychological war against Afghanistan, misinformation, fabrications and falsification by the imperialist propaganda machinery with regard to the solidarity and assistance to the Afghan people by many non-aligned countries, national liberation movements, all progressive and democratic forces of Asia, Africa, Latin America and the world over, and by the socialist countries particularly the Soviet Union.

"The participants pledge to fight together against the information monopoly of imperialism in the interest of defending truth and justice.

"Participants thank the people, government and the peace, solidarity and friendship organization of the DRA for their warm hospitality."

UK Paper Reports Recent Capture of Soviet Troops

PM041011 London THE DAILY TELEGRAPH in English 28 Nov 84 p 6

[M. Aftab dispatch: "100 Soviet Troops Seized by Afghan Rebels"]

[Text] Islamabad — One hundred Russian soldiers were captured by Islamic insurgents as they tried to flush out mujahidin hideouts near the south-eastern Afghanistan town of Qandahar earlier this month.

Thirty Soviet soldiers and four insurgents were killed in the clashes at Arghandab, and several armoured personnel carriers were destroyed. The Russians responded to the capture with air attacks on the area between Nov 14 and 22. During the bombing operations three Soviet MiGs were shot down by the rebels, according to Western diplomatic dispatches received in Islamabad this week.

Diplomatic sources said that 13,000 Soviet troops are now based at Qandahar airport. Units patrol the strategically important Qandahar-Spin Bwdale Road, which connects Afghanistan with Pakistan's south-western province of Baluchistan. The troops withdraw from their daily patrol duty to their airport base at night. The road, as a result of the patrol, has become quite safe from the rebel operations in the region, sources said.

Kabul, the Afghan capital, was subjected to heavy rocket attack on Nov 25. Insurgents lobbed 24 rockets into the city within 45 minutes. The Soviet-built Mirorayn housing complex and the fashionable (Wazir Akbar Mina) residential district were the targets. Four people were killed and 17 wounded. The rockets were fired from Kuh-e-qal'ch-ye-fath hill, south of the Bini Hesar area of Kabul.

The Afghan regime troops and the Russians opened up machine gun fire in retaliation. Four to six Soviet helicopter gunships bombed several villages close to Botkhak, east of Kabul, for two hours on Nov 24, because the area was allegedly being used by the rebels to launch rocket attacks on Kabul.

President Karmal addressed the Politbureau of the Communist Party on Nov 24 and submitted Interior Minister Sayyed Mohammad Gulabzoy to "scathing criticism," Western diplomats, quoting Afghanistan's state-owned newspapers, said. Gulabzoy was criticised for "lack of discipline, factionalism, non-performance of duties and other crimes," which were not specified. He is a key leader of the Khalq (People's) faction of the Afghan Communist Party, and the principal rival of Karmal, who heads the minority Parchan (Flag) wing.

Sources also said that the regime and the Communist Party last week intensified the campaign to enroll youth in the Democratic Organization of Youth of Afghanistan in order to persuade them to join the Armed Forces. The regime has repeatedly failed to beef up its dwindling Armed Forces, even through the extensive use of press gangs and conscription, because "no one wants to die for the sake of an unpopular regime," said one source.

Rebels in Farah Captured, Others Surrender

LD042129 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 4 Dec 84

[Text] Quoting a source in the security forces of Farah Province, a correspondent of BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY reports that, as a result of successful operations carried out recently by the heroic security forces in that province, 92 members of the criminal Harakat-e Enqelab Eslami [Movement for Islamic Revolution] band, including a number of their ringleaders, were eliminated; 5 of the criminals were captured. The security forces seized 100 weapons of various types, 300 assorted mines, 4 DShK's, 3 mortars, and 7 ammunition caches.

According to another report, 20 deceived persons, who were influenced by the poisonous propoganda of the enemy and were members of the criminal Jami'at-e Eslami, recently realized the truth of the revolution and the noble objectives of the PDPA, and took advantage of the amnesty decree of the DRA Revolutionary Council Presidium. Led by Abdul Samad, they surrendered themselves and their weapons to security forces in the Rostaq district in Takhar Province. They pledged to stand for the defense of the gains of the revolution and the homeland to their last breath to compensate for their past actions.

AFP: Soviet Soldiers Killed in Kabul Rocket Attack

NC041157 Paris AFP in English 0908 GMT 4 Dec 84

[Text] Islamabad, Dec 4 (AFP) — Several Soviet soldiers were killed in a rocket attack on the presidential palace in Kabul last week, and seven missiles fell in the diplomatic quarter, in a new round of rebel activity in the Afghan capital, Western diplomatic sources said here today. The sources said several ambulances had been seen rushing to the palace, residence of President Babrak Karmal after the bombardment on November 26. Three days later, the diplomatic sources said, insurgents attacked the Intercontinental Hotel, where the Afro-Asian Organization for Peace and Solidarity was holding a conference. Six people were killed in the surrounding area, the report said.

Quoting a person claiming to have seen the incident, the diplomats also said a troop-transport helicopter had crashed in flames just east of Kabul airport on November 26. Another report said another helicopter, full of soldiers had exploded on the tarmac three days earlier. The sources said several embassies in Kabul had stepped up security. Meanwhile, rebel sources here have been unable to confirm reports from Western diplomats last week that Moslem insurgents had captured 200 Soviet troops in mid-November near the southeastern town of Kandahar.

One resistance leader told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE that his organization had no such reports, and criticized the "lack of reliability" of Western diplomatic briefings. "Rather than utter stupidities, they would do better to give us some weapons," said the resistance leader, who asked to remain anonymous.

Death Toll in Gas Leakage Said To Reach 1,000

BK050317 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 5 Dec 84

[Text] The Madhya Pradesh Government has appointed a sitting high court judge, Mr Justice N.K. Singh, to inquire into the gas tragedy in Bhopal. An official announcement in Bhopal said that the terms of reference of the commission will be announced later.

According to unofficial reports, the death toll in the tragedy is over 1,000.

The prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, yesterday visited Bhopal for an on-the-spot study of the situation. He visited some of the hospitals where affected people are undergoing treatment. Later talking to newsmen, Mr Gandhi said that speedy and effective steps are being taken for relief and rehabilitation of the affected families. He assured them of all possible help.

A 3-member team of eminent environmental experts is rushing to Bhopal with gas detectors, samplers, and analyzers to assess the extent of toxic pollution in the atmosphere. The secretary of the National Environment Congress said in Bombay that the team will conduct investigations to determine the levels of inhalable gases present in the 10-km radius of the mishap site. The managing director of the company, Mr Gokhale, has already arrived in Bhopal and held discussions with the chief minister last evening.

All schools in Bhopal will reopen today. Our correspondent adds engineering, medical, and other degree colleges will, however, remain closed as the students of these colleges are engaged in relief operations. The principal of the Maulana Azad College of Technology at Bhopal has announced that no effects of the gas leakage are on the college campus and all the students living in the hostels are safe.

Meanwhile, relief and rescue operations are continuing in the affected areas on war footing. The chief minister, Mr Arjun Singh, reviewed the progress of the relief work at a special meeting of the health department officials. Eighteen special teams have been deputed to different areas to supervise and coordinate the work. Two relief camps, exclusively for orphaned children, have been set up.

Official Toll Now 623

BK050906 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 5 Dec 84

[Excerpt] In Bhopal, relief and rescue operations for the affected people are continuing on a war-footing. Political parties have joined hand to take up the task. Voluntary organizations have also set up camps to provide free food and medicines. A sitting high court judge, Mr Justice N.K. Singh, has been appointed to inquire into the gas tragedy.

According to the state home secretary, the death toll is 623. This includes 583 in Bhopal and 40 in other affected areas. Unofficial sources have put the figure at even over 1,000.

Dr R.N. Bhandari, medical superintendent of the government hospital in Bhopal, has said there is no shortage of medicines, oxygen and manpower to deal with the situation. Hospitals, dispensaries and private nursing homes are overcrowded with patients. A large number of tents have been fixed for outdoor treatment. Dr Bhandari said doctors from the United States are also expected to reach today or tomorrow to help deal with the situation.

Tamil Nadu Constituency Elections Countermanded

BK041659 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 4 Dec 84

[Text] In Tamil Nadu, elections in the North Madras Lok Sabha constituency and Egmore and Perembur assembly constituencies have been countermanded following the murder of an independent candidate, Mr (Sriman Talapati), this morning. Mr (Sriman) had filed valid nominations for the Lok Sabha and the two assembly seats.

Announcing the countermanding, the state chief electoral officer, Mr Ojha, said the state government has recommended to the election commission 6 January as a possible new date for polling in these constituencies.

Amongst those who were in the field for the North Madras Lok Sabha seat were the deputy speaker of the Lok Sabha, Mr G. Lakshmanan, who was contesting as a Congress-I candidate, and the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam nominee, Mr (N.G.N. Somin).

Delhi on Act Suspension During Mizo Talks

BK050433 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 4 Dec 84

[Text] It has been officially stated in New Delhi that the Unlawful Activities Prevention Act 1967 will be kept in abeyance during the talks now going on between the leader of the Mizo National Front [MNF], Mr Laldenga, and the chairman policy planning committee of the Ministry of External Affairs, Mr G. Parthasarathy.

It may be recalled that the Mizo National Front and its allied organizations were banned under the act in 1979. Instructions were issued to the Mizoram administration today saying that the arrest under the act will remain suspended.

Mr Laldenga expressed appreciation at the government's gesture during the talks held today.

Earlier, Mr Laldenga instructed his MNF men to stop all violent activities during the Delhi talks. He also told them to stop giving assistance to the Tripura national volunteers. This follows an understanding reached during the talks between Mr Laldenga and Mr Parthasarathy.

Communist Party To Field 57 Candidates

BK050915 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 5 Dec 84

[Excerpt] The Communist Party of India [CPI] has put up 57 candidates for the coming Lok Sabha election. In Bihar, it has fielded 16 candidates while 11 in Uttar Pradesh. In Andhra Pradesh, the CPI has (?put) up three nominees as against the two allotted by the Telugu Desam president, Mr N.T. Rama Rao. It has fielded four candidates each in Kerala and Madhya Pradesh, three each in West Bengal and Tamil Nadu, two each in Maharashtra and Meghalaya, and one each in Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Manipur, Orissa, Rajasthan, Sikkim, and Goa.

DAWN Reports Zia's Referendum Announcement

GF041408 Karachi DAWN in English 2 Dec 84 p 1

[Text] Islamabad, Dec 1 — President Gen. Mohammad Ziaul Haq announced on Saturday night that he would seek a vote of confidence in his leadership and its continuation for next five years and for his government's policies of the last seven-and-a-half years, in a referendum to be held on Dec. 19.

He said that in the referendum, the nation would be asked through a secret ballot to say 'yes' or 'no' to the question: Whether the people of Pakistan endorse the process initiated by Gen. Mohammad Ziaul Haq, the president of Pakistan, for bringing the laws of Pakistan in conformity with the injuctions of Islam as laid down in the Holy Quran and Sunnah of the Holy Prophet and for the continuation and consolidation of that process and for the smooth and orderly transfer of power to elected representatives.

In his unscheduled address to the nation over radio and television, after a day-long cabinet meeting, the president said if the majority of voters gave their reply in 'yes', it would mean that the people of Pakistan had faith in the present government, that they approved of the policies of the present government and that they had elected Gen. Mohammad Ziaul Haq as president for the future five years.

The president, however, clarified that his extraordinary step to go to people for a direct vote for continuing in office for next five years was an exception in view of special circumstances arising out of several factors, including the situation on the border, foreign money coming into the country for election purposes and what he generally regarded as the confrontationist stance of the opposition threatening to subvert the general election through terrorism.

The referendum, Gen. Ziaul Haq said, would be held in a fair and free manner by the Election Commission of Pakistan which would announce the result of the voting by Dec. 22. He hoped all men and women from various walks of life would take part in the referendum so that its result would help remove the political air of doubts and uncertainties and facilitate the holding of election by March 1985 in a peaceful atmosphere.

He said he would like to remind both men and women that the exercise of the franchise was not only their right but also their national and moral duty, shirking which would be a moral sin. He called on people to come forward and make a decision according to their conscience without accepting pressure. He gave an assurance that he would not only respect their decision but would act upon it.

During his nearly 45-minute address, Gen. Ziaul Haq dwelt at length on the achievements of his government since July 1977 and the steps he had proposed to take to hold the general election. He, however, held the opposition responsible for obstructing the way to smooth transition from martial law to elected civilian rule through election, pointing out that this could not be done overnight.

He said that during his prolonged discussions with different leaders of public opinion, scholars and Ulema of various schools, he was confronted with limited options which included either cancelling the Aug. 12 (1983) programme to hold the election by March next year, give in to threats of violence and disorder or to quit the government leaving important national issues to be resolved by a future government. Personally, he said, he neither favoured cancelling the promised election nor assuming an attitude of confrontation with the opposition.

Gen. Ziaul Haq referred to the efforts to reshape Pakistan into an Islamic state and make it an economically firm and stable country in an area which is by and large in turmoil.

He said that in the past, people had asked for vote with tall promises for the future, but he was seeking their support in a referendum in the light of his past record.

He hoped ULEMA and MUSHAIKH would act as a vanguard in this regard, and take the movement for implementation of Islamic laws to every doorstep. The voice in favour of this would rise from every mosque and pulpit.

He believed that a voice raised from a mosque and pulpit for the 'DEEN' of Allah would be effectual and popular among people. Similarly, I also believe that my mothers, sisters and daughters, for whose rights not only I but also Deen of Islam is a guarantor, will cast their votes extensively for an Islamic ideology and for the enforcement of Islamic system.

"I firmly believe that my brothers, the country's workers and the farmers, who are always eager for the economic prsperity of the country, will cast their votes in favour of peace, security and solidarity of the country", the president said.

He said further: "Similarly, on this important occasion my mind goes out again and again towards the armed forces, who have made Pakistan in this region an island of peace and stability. They have defended every inch of this land in the past and have made unprecedented sacrifices for this noble cause. They have served the nation over and above their professional duties."

APP adds: Zia said had our attitude been irresponsible, we would not have done what we did on July 5, 1977.

He said: "If we intervened at the time actuated by the spirit of patriotism and solicitude for national interest, then the same patriotism and regard for national interest impels us today not to be oblivious to the country's future, and adopt a course of action that should pull the country out of the present predicament and also lead to the establishment of a representative democratic government."

The president said an affirmative vote in the referendum would ensure a peaceful transfer of power to people's representatives in accordance with his Aug 12 plan, strengthen ideological foundations of the country and contribute towards national solidarity. He said he would like to speak about his August 12, 1983 plan in which he had spelt out that the election process in the country would be completed by March 1985.

The president said the plan had envisaged that the election programme would be implemented in four stages, ensuring enforcement of Islamic system of government and end of martial law by March 1985 by transferring power to the elected representatives of the government.

He said the elections would be held in four stages. Under the first stage the election of the local body institutions had already been held. During the next stage, the National Assembly elections followed by elections of the provincial assemblies would be held. This would be followed by elections to the senate. With the completion of the general elections the governments at the federal and provincial level would come into being, he said.

The president said he had also announced in the same plan that the 1973 constitution would be amended by incorporating in it a provision for striking a balance between the powers of the president and the prime minister and making everything subservient to Islam.

President Ziaul Haq said that the objectives resolution which had been unanimously passed soon after the creation of Pakistan would be fully incorporated in the preamble of the constitution which was the basic objective of the framers of the resolution.

The president said the Quaid-i-Azam had succeeded in winning unprecedented support of the Muslims of the sub-continent for his avowed declaration that Islam would be made the state religion and the people of the new state would live as true Muslims in accordance with their ideology which was Islam.

But he regretted that the basic fact of creation of Pakistan was totally neglected and only lip service was paid to Islam. This was totally contrary to the pronunciation of the Quaid-i-Azam and the thinking of the poet of Islam, Allama Iqbal. The present government wanted to give it a practical shape.

The president said the country had achieved self-sufficiency in food for the first time in its history, while industrial production had also registered substantial increase. He congratulated the workers for the hard work put in by them to ensure progress of the country.

The president said the country had become prosperous as a whole. Thousands of miles of new roads had been constructed, security of service had been given to government servants besides many other steps which had contributed towards national advancement. Above all, the president said, the present government had brought decency in politics.

The president said the country's prestige in the outside world had also increased manifold. He said Pakistan had remained firmly committed to peace without forsaking the principles. Within the country, the government had also been paying its full attention to the maintenance of law and order.

However, the main thrust of the government, he said, had been on the enforcement of Islam in the national polity. He said the government could take legitimate pride in the fact that what had been achieved in this important field, had not been done in the first 30 years after independence.

The president mentioned the successful implementation of the system of collection and distribution of 'zakat' and said Rs. 360 crore have been distributed among the deserving people and that lakhs had benefited from the enforcement of this vital Islamic principle. He said the enforcement of 'Hadood' [Islamic penal laws] and introduction of 'Nizam-i-Salaat' [system of prayers] had also a salutary effect on society. He said the curse of 'interest' had also been eliminated to a large extent from the economy.

The president said the most significant achievement had been that, by and large, the direction of 'QIBLA' [direction for prayers]of most of the people had been corrected. It was because of this new found change in their attitude that the people now took pride in their national language and dress and were no more hesitant in offering their prayers. He said all these changes had been brought about with the active help of the people.

The president said that whenever he had talked of Islam, he had been asked as to which type of Islam he was referring. He said there was only one Islam with which the Holy Prophet (peace be upon him) had liberated the mankind from ignorance. It was the Islam which had specified for the first time in history the rights for men and women, given protection to minorities and opened the doors for "Ijtihad" [Islamic scholarship].

He said Islam was no one's exclusive domain nor was there any priesthood in it. Islam, he said, was only dictated by the Holy Quran and for a Muslim sovereignty lies only and only with God Almighty. The present government, he said, wanted to restructure the national polity on these two lines.

The president said he was conscious of the need to accelerate the process of Islamisation in the realm of justice and in the field of economy. He said very soon Kazi courts would start functioning and requisite law had already been framed in this connection. Similarly, steps had been taken to ensure that interest was eliminated from the national economy by July 1985.

The president said he would not repeat what steps had been taken during the past seven years towards Islamisation and what were the reasons for postponing the elections.

He said the present government had never tried to prolong its rule in the name of Islam. Rather, he added, it had made all possible efforts to accelerate the process of Islamisation and achieve substantial success in the objective.

His speech on August 12 last year, the president said, was not only a declaration for the establishment of a democratic order in the country but explicitly contained the feature sof Islamic democracy and a clear time-table for the realisation of the objective.

But, he added, the miscreants went with their malicious motive of throwing the innocent people into the fire in their lust for power. It was good that the masses soon saw through their conspiracy and the so-called movement of the disgruntled peopled died its own death after the death of a few innocent people.

Now, the president pointed out, it was being said by the same elements that the ensuing elections would not only be boycotted

but resisted and sabotaged at all cost. Their mischievous programme was borne out by the letters they received from abroad and resolutions being passed by them within the country. Illegal money was also being received by them from abroad for causing turmoil, terror and violence.

He said this was also evident by their actions and deeds and also from the plans which they were making at the behest of their foreign masters.

He said their intentions were also evident from their venomous utterances. They were undermining the national ideology and trying to eat into the vitals of the state and were unable to see light. They could not be allowed to strike at the very roots of the country in the name of criticism. They were in praise of those who had slaughtered thousands of innocents. They came from distant places to attend the funerals of subversionists and placed floral wreaths on their graves. All this was indicative of their outlook.

In a country which was inhabited by nine crore people, difference of opinion was inevitable but this could not justify allowing spreading violence and terror.

He said as far as difference of opinion was concerned, one view was that the 1973 constitution should be restored without any amendment or otherwise they would start a movement. Also they wanted that the ban should be withdrawn from the political parties to enable them to contest the elections otherwise they would not allow the poll to be held.

Furthermore they assert that the political parties be allowed to participate in the elections without rendering an account of their funds or without holding of their own party elections. They were also of the view that there should be no pre-condition of prescription of any qualification for the candidates to contest the elections and irrespective of their past career they should be allowed to contest the election otherwise they would boycott the elections.

President Zia said another point of view which also had our support that the next elections be held according to formula given by him on Aug 12, 1983, and that they should be completed in a peaceful manner under adult franchise system on non-party basis. [sentence as published]

He said the government wanted that the candidates should have an unimpeachable character, unblemish past and there should be no free for all like the past that the life did not become paralysed and there was no lawlessness on account of interference of outside elements and the country which is a place of peace in boiling geographical region did not become any arena of chaos.

He said the government would not allow anything to happen which washed out all that had been achieved during the last seven years.

The president said he did not want that Qibla which had been corrected during the last seven years received a set back. He also did not want the atmosphere of peace and stability, cordiality was disrupted. [sentence as published]

The president was of the view that democracy could not replace martial law in one go. In order to fully nourish the plant of democracy utmost care was essential otherwise it would again take the country 37 years back.

It was not logical. In view of the dangerous hovering around borders the country could not be left in an uncertain state of affairs even for a single moment. He said as long as the head of state enjoyed the support of the people the country remained strong and integrated. This was replete with examples where as soon as the centre was weakened a little and the head of the state became weak and ineffective the country's ship started wavering. It was a matter of gratefulness to Almighty Allah that the honour and prestige of the country had been maintained high. The government enjoyed the confidence of the people and the present government was able to overcome all the major problems facing the country.

The president said it was his experience that the people vehemently supported the government policies for effectively tackling the problems. "We proclaimed that we will remain steadfast which had greatly infused a new vigour and strength in the people."

President Ziaul Haq emphasised the role of different sections of the society in ensuring peace and tranquality in the country. He said the lawyers had their own role to play. An overwhelming majority of the lawyers was staunch supporter of Islamic system of justice.

He also praised the role of minorities and hoped that they would extend their fullest cooperation in his efforts to strengthen the country.

While talking about the youth he said that the country pinned great expectations on them and they were always keen for the enforcement of Islamic order. They were valuable asset for the country and were custodian of the future. It was expected of them to concentrate their energies and faculties on acquiring knowledge and not indulging in unhealthy activities.

It was hoped that they would make best use of the facilities made available to them and wholly devote themselves to their academic pursuits.

'Text' of President's Referendum Order

GF050600 Karachi DAWN in English 3 Dec 84 p 4

[Text] Islamabad, Dec 2: President Gen. Mohammad Ziaul Haq on Saturday promulgated a presidential order called "the referendum order, 1984" to give effect to his announcement for referring a question to a referendum.

Following is the text of the president's order:

"Whereas the Objectives Resolution of 1949 and the preamble to the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan of 1973, hereinafter referred to as the Constitution, inter alia declare that it is the will of the people of Pakistan to establish an order wherein the Muslims shall be enabled to order their lives in the individual

and collective spheres in accordance with the teachings and requirements of Islam as set out in the Holy Kuran and Sunnah and adequate provision will be made to safeguard the legitimate interests of minorities and backward and depressed classes:

"And whereas the president of Pakistan has initiated the process for Islamisation of laws and taken measures to enable the people to order their lives in accordance with the teachings and requirements of Islam:

"And whereas in his address of the twelfth day of August, 1983, the president of Pakistan declared that the Constitution will be restored after making therein amendments inter alia to include Islamic provisions in the substantiative part of the Constitution and to bring about a balance between the powers confered thereby on the president and the prime minister and to revive democracy and representative institutions in accordance with the principles of Islam, that elections to the national assembly, the senate and the four provincial assemblies will be held so as to be completed by the twenty-third day of March, 1985, that the rights of women will be protected and they will have the same right of franchise as men, that minorities in Islam are not an oppressed and persecuted lot but a privileged section of society and that representation will be given to the ulema, women, workers, peasants, technocrats and professional classes:

"And whereas deliberate attempts are being made by vested interests to undermine the foundations of Pakistan by bringing into ridicule its ideology and the Islamic way of life:

"And whereas attempts are being made to thwart the process of restoration of democratic violence and instigating the people to boycott, disrupt and prevent the holding of elections.

"And whereas saboteurs and subversive elements are at work to disturb peace and tranquility and create confusion and chaos:

"And whereas the president of Pakistan is determined to hold free and fair elections as scheduled:

"And whereas it is necessary that the process of restoration of democratic institutions and transfer of power be peaceful, smooth and orderly:

"And whereas it is necessary that the ideology of Pakistan be preserved and the process of Islamisation be completed in accordance with the will of the people:

"And whereas for continuing the aforesaid process and consolidating the same, as well as to ensure smooth and orderly transfer of power it is considered necessary that General Mohammad Ziaul Haq continue to hold the office of president of Pakistan for a further period of five years from the day of the first meeting of the houses of parliament in joint sitting and appropriate amendment to that effect be made in the Constitution:

"And whereas the president has decided to ascertain the views of the people of Pakistan by means of a referendum:

"Now, therefore, in pursuance of the provisional Constitution order, 1981 (C. M. L. A. [chief martial law administrator] order no. 1 of 1981), and in exercise of all powers enabling him in that behalf, the president is pleased to make the following order:

"Explanation: In this paragraph and the succeeding paragraphs of this schedule, 'prescribed' means prescribed by the commission in such manner as it says:

"1. — Short title, extent and commencement — (1) This order may be called the referendum order, 1984.

"(2) It extends to the whole of Pakistan.

"(3) It shall come into force at once.

"2. — Definitions — In this order, unless there is anything repugnant in the subject or context,

"(A) 'Commission' constituted under the election commission order, 1977, P. (P. P.) O. No. 4 of 1977, and the 'commissioner' means the chief election commissioner appointed under the said order:

"(B) 'Question' means the question set out in article 4.

"3. — Election to the assemblies and the senate — The elections to the national assembly, the provincial assemblies and the senate shall be completed by the 23rd March, 1985.

"4. — Question to be referred to referendum. The question — 'Whether the people of Pakistan endorse the process initiated by General Mohammad Ziaul Haq, the president of Pakistan, to bring in laws of Pakistan in conformity with the injunctions of Islam as laid down in the Holy Kuran and Sunnah of the Holy Prophet (peace be upon him) and for the preservation of the ideology of Pakistan, for the continuation and consolidation of that process and for the smooth and orderly transfer of power to the elected representatives of the people' — shall be referred to a referendum on the 19th day of December, 1984.

"5. — Answer to the question. The question shall be answered either by 'yes' or 'no'.

"6. — Procedure for holding referendum, etc. The procedure for holding the referendum and other matters shall be that provided for in the schedule.

"7. — Consequence of declaration of the result. If a majority of the votes cast in the referendum is in favour of the answer 'yes', the people of Pakistan shall be deemed to have endorsed all steps taken by the president of Pakistan for bringing the laws of Pakistan in conformity with the injunctions of Islam as laid down in the Holy Koran and Sunnah of the Holy Prophet (peace be upon him) and for the preservation of the ideology of Pakistan and for the continuation and consolidation of that process and for smooth and orderly transfer of power to the elected representatives of the people: And General Mohammad Ziaul Haq shall be deemed to have been duly elected president of Pakistan for a term of five years from the day of the first meeting of the houses of parliament in joint sitting.

"8. — Bar of jurisdiction. No court, including the superior courts, tribunal or other authority shall call in question, or permit to be called in question, the validity of any provision of this order or of anything done or action taken, or purporting to be done or taken, thereunder on any ground whatsoever or grant an injunction, make any order or entertain any proceedings in respect of any matter provided for in this order or arising thereunder.

"9. — Dispute as to result of referendum. All disputes as to the result of the referendum shall be finally decided by the commission and no court, including the superior courts, or other authority shall have any jurisdiction to entertain any proceedings relating thereto.

"10. — Removal of difficulties. If any difficulty arises in giving effect to any of the provisions of this order, the president may make such provision for the removal of the difficulty as he may deem fit.

The Schedule (See Article 6)

"1. — Persons qualified to vote at referendum. Every citizen of Pakistan who is enrolled as a voter on an electoral roll maintained under the electoral rolls act, 1974 (XXI of 1974), shall be entitled to vote at the referendum.

"2. — Hours of poll. Poll for the purpose of the referendum shall be taken on 19th December, 1984, from 8.00 a.m. to 4.30 p.m.

"3. — Poll by secret ballot. The poll under this order shall be by secret ballot and every voter shall cast his vote by means of a ballot paper which shall be in such form as may be prescribed.

"4. — Postal ballot. (1) The following persons may cast their votes by postal ballot in such manner as the commission may specify, namely:

"(A) A person who is in the service of Pakistan or holds any public office and is posted in an electoral area other than that in which he is enrolled:

"(B) The wife and children of any such person as is referred to in clause (a), if they ordinarily reside with such person:

"(C) A person who is detained in prison or held in other custody in an electoral area other than that in which he is enrolled: and

"(D) A person appointed by the returning officer, including police personnel, for the performance of any duty in connection with the referendum at a polling station other than that at which he is entitled to cast his vote.

"(2) A voter who, being entitled to do so, intends to cast his vote by postal ballot shall:

"(A) In the case of a person referred to in clause (a) or clause (b) or clause (c) sub-paragraph (1), within such time as may be specified by the commission, and

"(B) In the case of a person referred to in clause (d) of subparagraph (1), as soon as may be after his appointment, apply to the returning officer for a ballot paper for voting by postal ballot, and every such application shall specify the name of the voter, his address and his serial number in the electoral roll.

"(3) The returning officer shall immediately upon the receipt of an application by a voter under subparagraph (2) send by post to such voter a ballot paper and an envelope bearing on its face a form of certificate of posting, showing the date thereof, to be filled in by the proper official of the post office at the time of posting by the voter.

"(4) A voter on receiving his ballot paper for voting in the manner specified by the commission and, after so recording, post the ballot paper to the returning officer in the envelope sent to him under subparagraph (3), so as to reach the returning officer before the consolidation of results by him.

"5. — Voting procedure. (1) Where a voter presents himself to vote, the presiding officer shall issue a ballot paper to him after satisfying himself about the identity of the voter and shall, for that purpose, require the voter to produce the identity card issued to him under the national registration act, 1973 (LVI of 1973).

"(2) Before a ballot paper is issued to a voter —

"(A) A mark shall be placed on the list of voters against the name of the voter to indicate that a ballot paper has been issued to him.

"(B) The ballot of paper shall on its back be stamped with the official mark and initialled by the presiding officer and

"(C) The voter shall put his signature or thumb impression on the counterfoil.

"(3) The voter on receiving a ballot paper shall —

(a) Forthwith proceed to the place reserved for marking ballot papers.

"(b) Secretly put the prescribed mark on the ballot paper to indicate his answer to the question, and

"(c) After he has put the mark, fold the ballot paper and insert it in the ballot box.

"(4) The voter shall insert the ballot paper in the ballot box without undue delay and leave the polling station immediately after he has done so.

"(5) Where a voter in blind or otherwise so incapacitated that he cannot vote without the assistance of a companion, the presiding officer shall allow him such assistance, and thereupon such voter may do anything with such assistance which a voter is required or permitted to do under this paragraph.

"(6) No voter shall vote at a referendum —

"(a) More than once at the same polling station or

"(b) At more than one polling station.

"(7) All votes cast in contravention of sub-paragraph (6) shall be void.

"6. — Challenge of voters. (1) If, at the time a person applies for a ballot paper for the purpose of voting, any such person as may be specified by the commission declares to the presiding officer that he has reasonable cause to believe that that person has already voted at the referendum, at the same or another polling station, or is not the person against whose name entered in the electoral roll he is seeking to vote, and undertakes to prove the charge in a court of law and deposits with the presiding officer in cash a sum of two rupees, the presiding officer may, after warning the person of the consequences and obtaining on the counterfoil his thumb impression and, if he is literate, also his signature, issue a ballot paper (hereinafter referred to as "challenged ballot paper") to that person.

"(2) If the presiding officer issues a ballot paper under subparagraph (1) to such person he shall enter the name and address of that person in a list to be prepared by him (hereinafter referred to as "the challenged votes list") and obtain thereon the thumb impression and, if he is literate, also the signature of that person.

"(3) A ballot paper issued under sub-paragraph (1), shall, after it has been marked and folded by the voter, be placed in the same condition in a separate packet bearing the label 'challenged ballot paper,' instead of being placed in the ballot-box.

"7. — Spoilt ballot paper. (1) A voter who has inadvertently so spoilt his ballot paper that it cannot be used as a valid paper may, upon proving the fact of inadvertence to the satisfaction of the presiding officer and returning the ballot paper to him, obtain another ballot paper and cast his vote by such other ballot paper.

"(2) The presiding officer shall forthwith cancel the ballot paper returned to him under sub-paragraph (1) make a note to that effect on the counterfoil over his own signature and sign the cancelled ballot paper.

"8. — Voting after close of poll. No voter shall be given any ballot paper or permitted to vote after the hour fixed for the close of the poll, except the voters who at that hour are present within the building, room, tent or enclosure in which the polling station is situated and have not voted but are waiting to vote.

"9. — Procedure on the close of poll. (1) Immediately after the close of the poll, that is, as soon as the last of such voters, if any, as are present and waiting to vote as mentioned in paragraph 8 has voted, the presiding officer shall:

"(a) In the presence of such persons as may be specified by the commission, open the used ballot box, or ballot boxes, and count the ballot papers taken out therefrom:

"(b) Open the packet bearing the label 'challenged ballot papers' and count them:

"(c) Count in such manner as may be prescribed, the votes cast in favor of each answer to the question after rejecting the invalid ballot papers, that is the ballot papers which have:

"(I) No official mark of initials of the presiding officer,

"(II) Any mark by which a voter can be identified,

"(III) No mark to indicate the answer to the question, or

"(IV) Any mark from which the answer to the question is not clear, and

"(d) Prepare a statement of the result of count and such other statements and packets in such manner as the commission may direct.

"(2) The presiding officer shall, immediately after the count under sub-paragraph (1), prepare a ballot paper account showing:

"(a) The number of ballot papers entrusted to him;

"(b) The number of ballot papers taken out of the ballot boxes and counted,

"(c) The number of unissued ballot papers and spoilt ballot papers,

"(d) The number of challenged ballot papers, and

"(e) the number of invalid ballot papers.

"(3) The presiding officer shall, immediately after the close of the proceedings under sub-paragraphs (1) and (2), cause the statements, packets and account prepared by him to be sent to the returning officer together with such other records as the returning officer may direct.

"10. — Consolidation and declaration of the result. (1) The returning officer shall, on receipt of the statements of the results of the count from the presiding officers, consolidate in the prescribed manner the results of the count by the presiding officers in respect of each answer to the question, including therein the postal ballots received by him until then.

"(2) The returning officer shall, after obtaining the result of the count, forthwith submit a return of the referendum to the commission.

"(3) The commission shall, by the 22nd December, 1984, announce the result of the referendum showing the total number of votes cast in favor of each answer and shall also publish the same in the official gazette.

"11. — Powers of the commission. (1) Save as otherwise provided, the commission shall make all arrangements necessary for the holding of the referendum, including the appointment of a returning officer, assistant returning officers and presiding officers and provision of polling stations, and may issue and prescribe such orders, directions and instructions, and exercise such powers, as may, in its opinion, be necessary for the performance of its functions and duties in any matter coming before it and ensuring that the referendum is conducted honestly, justly and fairly and in accordance with the provisions of this order.

"(2) The commission may authorise the commissioner to exercise any of its powers and functions under this order, and the commissioner may direct that any of his functions may also be performed by any officer or authority subordinate to him.

"(3) The commission shall have the same power as the high court has to punish any person for contempt of court and the contempt of court act, 1976 (LXIV of 1976), shall have effect accordingly as if reference therein to a 'court' and to a 'judge' were reference, respectively, to the commission and the commissioner or, as the case may be, a member of the commission.

"12. — Executive authorities to assist commissioner, etc. It shall be the duty of all executive authorities in the federation and the provinces to assist the commissioner and the commission in the discharge of his or its functions."

DAWN Comments on President's Referendum Move
GF050502 Karachi DAWN in English 3 Dec 84 p 5

[Editorial: "Referendum — A Crucial Move"]

[Text] President Ziaul Haq's decision to hold a referendum on the policies and actions of his government and to seek a mandate for his leadership for a five-year term is designed to set in motion the process of a gradual return to civilian rule, as envisaged under his August 12, 1983 plan. By his own explanation, this extraordinary procedure has been warranted by special circumstances, namely the situation on the borders, the danger of foreign money and machinations subverting the planned electoral process and what he has termed the confrontationalist stance of the opposition within the country.

Without going into a detailed discussion of these factors, one might take heart in the fact that the proposed referendum is meant to be the first major step towards restoring some form of representative rule in the country, which has been under martial law for over seven years now.

A positive step though it largely is, it is possible, however, to have reservations and misgivings of the referendum move. For one thing, the mandate being sought by the president also includes, implicity, authorising him to carry out constitutional amendments he considers necessary, presumably to safeguard the Islamisation process and also as required by the political system and the future governmental dispensation his scheme of things envisages for the country. Since it is so, it was necessary to spell out the particular amendments considered essential, so that people could register their verdict with knowledge and understand the precise limits and implications of the authority being sought and given on this account.

Admittedly, extreme circumspection is needed where constitutional changes are concerned, for, any major or wholesale restructuring affecting the fundamental character and features of the Basic Law is bound to weaken its nationally accepted status and importance. It is also not known whether any important change is being contemplated in the constitution's scheme of power-sharing between the president and the prime minister. The constitution envisages a parliamentary system of government in which the prime minister is the main focus of authority.

As advocated by a section of political analysts and by President Zia himself from time to time, some changes may well be logical and necessary for striking a 'better balance' between the two top functionaries in respect of their power relationship. But making the future prime minister subservient to the president will obviously involve a drastic alteration of the constitution's scheme of government and invite the charge of inducting a presidential form of government in all but name. There may also be some confusion as to whether the future national assembly will be the supreme law-making body and the repository of the popular sovereignty that it is meant to be.

Much of all this need not have arisen at all if the authority for effecting constitutional changes being sought through the December 19 referendum had been defined in precise terms, in the form of specific constitutional proposals desired — instead of making it look like an open-ended mandate.

One wishes some of these patches of haze were not there to cause confusion and misgivings as one looks at the emerging visits ahead — the prospect of an assured transition back to democratic rule. It is hardly necessary to emphasise how important it is for the transition to be peaceful and orderly and for the future political dispensation to be strong and stable. This is hardly possible unless it is inherently sound and has the backing of the majority of the people.

The crucial factor is the electoral process that follows the December 19 exercise and the political structure that comes into being as a result of this. For the present, the president has ruled out the possibility of any contact or negotiations with the politicians on these two issues. One would still like to emphasise that for the smooth working of the future political system, it will be vitally necessary to reach some understanding and accomodation with at least the moderate sections of political opinion and to secure their support for the system that may be inducted for the future.

Opposition Calls for Referendum Boycott
BK050418 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 5 Dec 84

[Text] In Pakistan, the 11-party Movement for Restoration of Democracy has called for a boycott of the referendum being held on the 19th of this month. In a statement in Lahore, they asked the people to observe the day as a black day. In the referendum, President Ziaul Haq is seeking an endorsement of his Islamization program and peaceful and orderly transfer of power to elected representatives.

The combined opposition has appealed to the people to foil exploitation of Islam by General Ziaul in pursuance of what they described as his insatiable lust for power.

BANGLADESH

Ershad Congratulates PLO's 'Arafat on Reelection

BK300711 Dhaka BSS in English 0646 GMT 30 Nov 84

[Text] Dhaka Nov 30 BSS — Bangladesh President Lt General H.M. Ershad has congratulated Mr Yasir 'Arafat on his election as the chairman of the Excutive Committee of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

In a message sent to him yesterday the president reiterated the firm commitment to work untiringly towards securing the legitimate and inalienable rights of the Palestinians to a homeland of their own in their territory.

SRI LANKA

Information Bureau for Terrorist Acts Established

BK041328 Colombo Domestic Service in English 1245 GMT 4 Dec 84

[Excerpt] A centralized information bureau has been established at the crime detection bureau headquarters at Gregory Road in Colombo. This center has been set up with a view to facilitate in receipt of information from members of the public on terrorist and other subversive activities, particularly in the city of Colombo.

Terrorists Attack Civilians, Steal Buses

BK041331 Colombo Domestic Service in English 1245 GMT 4 Dec 84

[Text] The alarming trend that has emerged in the past few days is that the terrorists are now attacking civilians. It appears that their intention is to create a situation that will receive international coverage on a backlash to indicate that the security forces and the majority community are retaliating and killing Tamil people.

Terrorists attacked a train at the Chunnakam station yesterday. It was a special water train from the K.K.S. cement factory. One person was injured.

Reports indicate that the terrorists have started to steal Ceylon Transport Board [CTB] buses. A bus from the Point Pedro depot was stolen at Navali. Another bus from Kondavil depot was stolen at Kopai. The third CTB bus was taken at the junction of Point Pedro.

The Kayts police station, which has been abandoned about 2 weeks ago, has been blasted yesterday. The new building, which has been completed but remained unused, was also damaged in the [word indistinct].

Details of Kidnapping, Deadline Reported

BK041648 Colombo Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 4 Dec 84

[Text] A terrorist group has kidnapped nine persons and are holding them hostage until the government agrees to three demands they have asked for. The persons taken as hostages are reported to be an unidentified journalist and eight workers from the Kankesanturai Cement Works. This was disclosed by the minister of national security, Lalith Athulathmudali, at a news briefing at the Ministry of Defense this afternoon. The first message of the kidnapping was made known to the acting government agent, Jaffna, M. Panchalingam, while he was in the midst of a conference. An unknown person [words indistinct] handed over the message and disappeared. The news of the kidnapping and ransom demand reached Colombo at 1200 [0630 GMT] today. The deadline set by the kidnappers for their demands to be met was given as 1500 [0930 GMT] this afternoon.

The three demands contained in the first ransom note were that the government should release one of their leaders, whom they say have been captured, and that all Sinhala workers should be removed from the Kankesanturai Cement Works. The third demand was that the government pay 10 million rupees to the Tamil United Liberation Front [TULF] leaders. The terrorist group responsible for the kidnapping claims they belong to the Tamil Eelam Liberation Army [TELA]. This group had also been involved in the Allens kidnapping.

The government immediately on receipt of the information, broadcast a message on the Tamil service of the Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation [SLBC] meant for the kidnappers. The broadcast said that the government had received their message but was not aware of who was the leader they referred to as having been captured by the government and the names of the TULF leaders they mentioned to whom the ransom money should be paid. The SLBC message went on the air at about 1300 [0730 GMT]. It is presumed that the eight workers from the Kankesanturai Cement Works, captured by the terrorists, may have been those who escaped a terrorist attack on a water train at Chunnakam last night.

The kidnappers sent a second message to the acting government agent's house in Jaffna. The contents of the second message to the authorities in Colombo reached them shortly after 1600 [1030 GMT]. In the second message, the kidnappers said that they were extending the time limit for their demands to be met until 0800 [0230 GMT] tomorrow. The second message also stated that it was not one leader whom they want released, but three. Their names have not been mentioned. The leaders are supposed to have been captured on November 6. The second message also contained the names of the two TULF leaders to whom the money should be handed over. The names mentioned were Mr Amirthalingam or Mr Sivasithamparam. However, the note did not indicate where and how the money should be handed over.

Mr Athulathmudali further told newsmen that the implication of the TELA demands was that no Sinhalese could work in Jaffna and that even civilians were not safe. The minister pointed out that TELA was ideologically Marxist and believed in direct action.

The TULF has totally dissociated itself from the alleged ransom demand announced over the SLBC. A statement issued by the administrative secretary of the TULF, Mr Alalasunderam to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs said that the party deeply regretted being implicated in any way in the alleged act of kidnapping. The TULF appealed to those responsible for this act to immediately release unconditionally all the persons in custody.

Meanwhile, Mr (R. Sivagurunathan), president of the Sri Lanka Working Journalists Association, has earnestly appealed to TELA to release the journalist on humanitarian grounds.

Deadline Extended

BK051049 Colombo International Service in English 1030 GMT 5 Dec 84

[Excerpt] The northern terrorists who are holding nine persons hostage have extended their deadline until 1500 [0930 GMT] this evening for their demands to be met. The earlier deadline was 0800 today.

The citizens committees in Colombo, Batticaloa, Jaffna and Trincomalee have appealed to those responsible for the kidnapping of nine civilians to release them unconditionally on humanitarian grounds. The committees had recently appealed to all to desist from violence, especially against noncombatant civilians. The committees have urged all concerned to work toward a speedy peaceful negotiated solution to the ethnic problem.

Colombo Reports 13 Killed in Terrorist Clash

BK050218 Colombo Overseas Service in Hindi 0130 GMT 5 Dec 84

[Text] A clash took place between the army and the terrorists on Mannar-Copan road on Monday [3 December] night. One soldier and 12 paramilitary personnel were killed in the clash. About six paramilitary personnel were [words indistinct] injured.

In Mullaittivu, 27 bodies have been found. It is believed that they were killed by the terrorists. Giving the above information, the (?national security) minister said that the situation in the curfew-bound areas of the country is better than before.

AFP: 90 Bodies Found

NC051021 Paris AFP in English 1019 GMT 5 Dec 84

[Text] Colombo, Dec 5 (AFP) — Some 90 bodies have been found along a road in the northern Jaffna Province where a soldier was killed and seven were hurt in a landmine explosion yesterday, press reports reaching here said today.

Meanwhile, the government said that 24 "terrorists", and not 12 as first reported, were killed in a counter-attack after the army jeep exploded on the mine laid by Tamil separatists.

The reports of bodies came amid rumours circulating here, strenuously denied by the Government, that security forces had gone on a rampage in the Mannar region after the landmine blast.

A local correspondent contacted by AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE said that some of the 90 bodies along the Mannar-Murunkan road were found near the Murunkan post-office close to the spot where the army jeep blew up.

If confirmed, this would represent the most serious incident since ethnic feuding erupted in mid-November between majority Sinhalese and separatists within the Tamil minority who are fighting for an independent Tamil state in the country's north and east.

Curfew To Remain in Northern, Eastern Provinces

BK051056 Colombo International Service in English 1030 GMT 5 Dec 84

[Text] The curfew will be restricted to the northern and eastern provinces today. There will be no curfew elsewhere.

In the Jaffna, Kilinochchi and Mullattivu districts, the curfew will be operative from 1600 today to 0600 tomorrow.

The curfew in the districts of Manner, Batticaloa and Vavuniya and in the Tirukkovil and Akkaraipattu [word indistinct] areas will be operative from 1800 today to 0600 tomorrow.

Khamene'i Message Praises Martyred Ayatollah

LD302156 Tehran IRNA in English 1917 GMT 30 Nov 84

[Excerpt] Mashhad, Khorasan Pr. Nov 30, IRNA — In a message in humble tribute to religious scholar and political activist Ayatollah Hassan Modarres, President Khamene'i exalted him as a conscientious revolutionary who by his active opposition during the reign of the shah's father had set the cornerstone of the Islamic Revolution in Iran.

The message read at the opening session of a two-day seminar on the occasion of the forty-seventh anniversary of his martyrdom, praised him as typifying the intellectual peculiarities of the imams and as a pioneer who was bold enough to raise a voice of protest to Reza Khan (the shah's father) because he saw him as a personification of the foreign enemies of Muslims in Iran.

The president said in his meesage to the seminar that the martyred ayatollah was great especially because he had ventured to raise a voice of protest to "Reza Khan" at a time few people had suspected his being an agent of the "British colonialism" and at a time even the few who had any knowledge about his being so did not have the fortitude to stand against the un-Islamic drift of the society which was essentially a product of exotic but alien values deliberately fostered among the masses here during the reign of Reza Shah.

Towards the end of his message Khamene'i also praised God for the soul of martyr Modarres and for his salvation.

Velayati Briefs Majlis Speaker on India Visit

LD021838 Tehran IRNA in English 1754 GMT 2 Dec 84

[Text] Tehran, Dec 2, IRNA — Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati met with Majlis Speaker Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani here Sunday, and reported to him on his just concluded visit to India.

The Majlis speaker stressed on expansion of relations between the Islamic Republic of Iran and Third World countries.

Velayati visited India at the head of an Iranian delegation (Nov. 27-30). In conclusion of the visit, the two countries issued a joint statement saying the trip had contributed to expansion of existing close ties. It also said agreements had been signed to increase cooperation between the two sides in various fields.

On his arrival at the airport Mr Velayati explained the objectives and results of his visit in an interview and affirmed the bilateral satisfaction on the progress of the talks and the strengthening of ties between the two countries.

The salient features of the first commission was the signing of an important trade protocol between the two countries by which the volume of exchanged commodities was raised from 100 million dollars in the past 6 years to 1.6 billion dollars this year. The bulk of this exchange, 1 billion dollars, comprises the export of oil by Iran to India, which is sold against cash to this country. Besides this cash sale of oil following the talks with the Islamic Republic of Iran, Iran has invested in the Madras oil refinery, situated in the southernmost province of India. Iran sends 50,000 barrels of oil to this refinery annually. In exchange India exports technology and machinery to Iran which it needs in various fields of industry and agriculture.

India is a bright example among the many Third World countries which has been able to attain successful results in the field of economic self-sufficiency. The Islamic Republic of Iran's trade ties with this country can prove extremely beneficial for Iran's trend toward economic self-sufficiency.

Commenting on the aims of ties with India, Mr Velayati referred to this point and stressed that despite the similarity of the economic set-up of the two countries, India's experience in the fields of science, technology, and agriculture can be transferred to our country. He hoped that we can exchange experiences and cooperate in fields in which programs have proved their success and efficiency.

The Islamic Republic of Iran, by forging closer political-economic ties with India for attaining experience from this country and benefitting from it in the economic fields, indicates that Iran adheres to its foreign policy based on expansion of ties with the Third World and nonaligned countries and endeavors to continue strengthening ties with such countries, despite the pressure of the great powers for polarisation of world trade and their efforts to destroy the strong economic foundations in the Third World. The Islamic Republic of Iran has now established ties with most of the other countries of the Third World, who have the capacity to reciprocate vis-a-vis our economic needs. This effort is in fact a practical and indirect campaign against the economic exploitation by the industrial and progressive nations which was stressed in the last session of the nonaligned leaders in New Delhi. The expansion of economic ties between Third World countries gives these countries the ability to implement the coordination necessary for discharging their joint responsibility regarding world problems, in particular their own problems.

At present, when the economic domination by the superpowers level a decisive lever of pressure on the vital problems of nations, there is no other choice but to throw off this domination and to attain economic independence. So it is necessary for all Third World countries to formulate a uniform strategy in this regard.

Stresses Third World Unity

GF020700 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 2 Dec 84

[Commentary by the Central News Unit research group]

[Excerpts] The foreign minister of our country led a high-level delegation to India to participate in the second session of the joint Iran-Indian commission. He ended his 4-day visit on Friday and returned to Tehran.

Velayati on Ties With Third, Industrialized World

LD021907 Tehran IRNA in English 1833 GMT 2 Dec 84

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 2, IRNA — The Islamic Republic is increasing its political and economic ties with the Third World countries but looks to the industrial countries for its technological needs, Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati said in an interview published Sunday.

"IRNA, as the central core among the Islamic countries, could be in the forefront of a Third World power," Velayati told the daily *KEYHAN* reporters.

"We could be a means to free the world from the (current) two-pole world and in fact restructure the Third World movement with inspiration fron the Islamic ideology," he said.

"This could only be achieved by contacts with the Third World countries," Velayati added.

Economically, the Islamic Republic has tried to increase its ties with the developing world, but Velayati said technological needs were acquired from the industrial countries with no strings attached.

"Our goal is not just to go after quality goods in the world and to avoid being pulled into captivity through economic channels.

"And on the other hand, we must be vigilant in our political considerations, so we don't turn our country into a junk house of other countries' goods."

"But why has our (Iran's) trade, especially with Europe, increased"? the reporters asked.

Velayati replied: "Do you know of a place where we could get our technological and economic needs and which has a better political stand towards us?

"You and I are working under the light of this lamp and your tape-recorder is electrical....

"We don't manufacture them. Either your suggestion is that we can use what we can produce for the time being, which you certainly wouldn't suggest, because that would mean going backwards, or your suggestion is that we use them (imported goods) until we reach self-sufficiency.

"And self-sufficiency cannot be achieved overnight."

But he added: "Are we thinking about self-sufficiency when we are importing goods? This is a fundamental issue and, therefore, when contracts are presented, the import of technology is discussed."

Not being totally convinced, the reporters asked what were the objectives of the Europeans for establishing trade with the Islamic Republic.

"If we seek them out for our needs, it is a different matter than for these countries coming after us.

"This difference can be understood when we reflect on the situation before the revolution when the Americans imposed everything they wanted on the shah," the foreign minister said.

"No country in the world today can claim that it could impose its will on us."

"This is not a simple phenomenon. That is, a European government is also facing budget deficits, increased inflation, and decreased currency value...

"If these countries could do without us, they would certainly think otherwise in their economic relations," Velayati added.

"Europe, nor any other political grouping in the world, is happy to see the emergence of a new power with a new idea...nor see it develop or see its ideas spread."

Continuing Reportage on Hijacked Kuwaiti Airliner

Hijackers Demand 'Mujahidin' Freedom

LD050841 Tehran IRNA in English 0834 GMT 5 Dec 84

[Text] Tehran, Dec 5, IRNA — The hijackers of the Kuwaiti passenger plane, stranded in Tehran since Tuesday morning, have so far made three contacts with the Kuwaiti charge d'affaires in Tehran, Kazem al-Ma'arefi.

In their contacts, the hijackers have declared the freedom of "mujahidin" and "detainees" as their conditions to release the passengers and crew.

The first contact of the hijackers with the Kuwaiti charge d'affaires, which was carried out through the control tower of Tehran's Mehrabad International Airport, took place around 15:30 p.m. (12:00 hours GMT) Tuesday.

The hijackers, in their negotiations have identified the dead passenger, which previously was said to be a British national, as an American diplomat. So far it has not been confirmed whether his death occured in a clash or the hijackers have carried out their threats and killed him.

The hijackers have reportedly demanded the Kuwaiti diplomat to immediately inform the Kuwaiti authorities of their demands, other-wise they would explode the plane and carry out their threats.

The hijackers, who this morning demanded Iranian officials at the airport to remove the barriers around the plane for take off, have so far released some 46 of the women and children passengers, and crew due to the efforts of Iranian authorities.

127 Pakistanis Aboard

BK041535 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 4 Dec 84

[Excerpts] The hijacked Kuwaiti plane is still stationed at Tehran's airport. Citing Karachi airport sources, ASSOCIATED

PRESS OF PAKISTAN said that 127 Pakistanis are among the passengers of the hijacked plane.

The Pakistani Foreign Ministry secretary established contact with the Pakistani Embassies in Kuwait and Iran to inquire about the safety of the passengers of the plane, among whom are a considerable number of Pakistanis. The foreign secretary met with the Iranian charge d'affaires at the Foreign Office in Islamabad and conveyed to him the deep concern of the Pakistani Government and particularly of the relatives of the hijacked plane passengers. The Iranian charge d'affaires assured him that the Iranian Government, which is opposed to all kinds of hijacking, will take every possible step for the protection of passengers of the hijacked plane.

Musavi-Khamene'i Orders Negotiation

LD051112 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 5 Dec 84

[Excerpt] According to the latest reports from our correspondent at Mehrabad Airport on the hijacked Kuwaiti plane, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs spokesman announced that following repeated contacts by officials of the Islamic Republic of Iran with the hijackers regarding the release of the wounded person and those who are physically and mentally in an undesirable state, the wounded person was brought out on a stretcher and was immediately transferred to a hospital.

Mir Hoseyn Musavi ordered the Iranian officials trying to solve the hijacking problem without any incidents to increase their efforts to safeguard the lives of the passengers and to free them.

[Name indistinct], a Pakistani enroute to Karachi from Chicago, minutes after his release in an interview said: The hijackers sat in the front of the plane behind the cockpit. Passengers first heard arguments between a number of people and the crew, then heard a shot which resulted in the injury to one of the male passengers on the plane. They realized that developments in the plane were leading to the hijacking. He said that the hijackers were young and introduced themselves as Palestinians. They spoke in Arabic at all times. He added that they have bombs, machine guns and side-arms. Another Pakistani passenger [name indistinct] who is 17 years-old told IRNA that at first the hijackers threatened the passengers harshly, but treated the passengers very well the rest of the time.

3 AID Workers Among Hostages

NC041848 Paris AFP in English 1837 GMT 4 Dec 84

[Excerpts] Tehran, Dec 4 (AFP) — A total of 105 passengers and eight crew remained aboard the plane, including the captain, who is British, and several U.S. citizens, three of whom work for U.S. AID, diplomatic sources said here.

The sources said it was impossible to identify the passenger killed earlier today by the hijackers because there were no identity papers on the body. Unconfirmed reports at the airport said the passenger could be British or American.

Hijackers Separate Americans

LD042048 Tehran IRNA in English 2026 GMT 4 Dec 84

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 4 IRNA — There are two Iranians among the passengers of the hijacked Kuwaiti plane, according to a released Kuwaiti lady. Sa'diyeh I'jaz Hussein, a student at the British college in Kuwait, who was among the second group of released passengers, aid in an interview with IRNA that the hijackers had separated the American passengers from the others. She said the hijackers had several times repeated the word "Palestine, Palestine."

Another released passenger said the injured person was a black who had been shot by one of the hijackers when he attempted to shoot at them with his pistol. The pistol the man carried belonged to the Kuwaiti secret police, the released passenger told IRNA, adding that he was perhaps a Kuwaiti security agent. Earlier reports said that the injured man had been treated by a Pakistani physician among the passengers. There was no information on his condition, however.

There were three women crew members among the released passengers in the second stage, including two Europeans, who refused to be interviewed by IRNA, saying that would reply to questions of the reporters only if the Kuwaiti Embassy allowed them.

Released Passengers Total 67

LD051121 Tehran IRNA in English 1116 GMT 5 Dec 84

[Excerpt] Tehran Dec 5 IRNA — The hijackers of the Kuwaiti Airbus freed another group of 23 passengers at 13:33 local time (10:03 hours GMT) thanks to the ceaseless efforts of the Iranian authorities at Tehran Mehrabad Airport. The total number of the released passengers including three crew members has now reached 67. Most of those freed are Pakistanis and non-Kuwaitis.

Meanwhile, at 12:40 hours (09:10 GMT) the hijackers allowed a doctor into the plane to treat the injured passenger. The hijackers later agreed that the injured man be taken to hospital. The injured passenger is said to be one of the security agents of the Kuwaiti airliner who was shot by the hijackers when he attempted to shoot at them.

'September 17' Claims Hijack

NC041639 Paris AFP in English 1637 GMT 4 Dec 84

[Excerpts] Beirut, Dec 4 (AFP) — The September 17th organisation claimed today's hijack of a Kuwait Airways airliner in which at least one passenger was killed. The claim was made in a telephone call to a foreign press agency in Beirut. "We once again warn the Kuwaiti princes against any measure affecting Palestinians and Arabs living in Kuwait. We will strike again," said the anonymous caller, who had an Arabic accent. "The next blows will be struck inside Kuwaiti territory," he added.

The September 17th organisation, which takes its name from the date of the massacre of Palestinians in the Sabra and Shatila camps in Beirut in 1982, was first heard of on November 16,

when it claimed responsibility for an explosion at the Kuwaiti Embassy in Beirut. Nobody was injured in the blast.

Hijackers Call Themselves Palestinians

LD041739 Tehran IRNA in English 1725 GMT 4 Dec 84

[Text] Tehran, Dec 4 IRNA — A released woman passenger of the hijacked Kuwait airliner said the plane was probably taken over by four men in their twenties who identified themselves as Palestinians.

"The hijackers said they were Palestinians and they spoke Arabic all the time," said Sajiada Banou Othmani, 40, who was travelling alone from Chicago, USA, to meet her family in Pakistan. "The hijacking began about 15 minutes after we left Dubai," she said. "We heard a quarrel between some persons and the crew of the plane and the firing of a gun which injured a male passenger. We knew something had started which was the beginning of the hijacking." She said the men carried "bombs, machine guns and pistols".

The hijackers released 14 children and 5 women. Iranian authorities have made arrangements to transfer them to a hotel.

Othmani, who was still tense from the 12 hour ordeal, said there were still 6 women and 5 children in the plane.

Khalidah Tayib, 17, also from Pakistan, said a physician among the passengers had treated the injured man.

Lebanese Sources Identify Hijackers

LD050848 Kuwait KUNA in English 0651 GMT 5 Dec 84

[Text] Kuwait, Dec 5 (KUNA) — Lebanese Minister of Justice and Construction Nabih Birri personally supervised the investigation to uncover the identity of the four Lebanese hijackers, Lebanese sources said.

The Kuwaiti daily *AL-WATAN* published here Wednesday quoted the sources as saying that the hijackers dossiers have been withdrawn from the Lebanese internal security, the airport and from the concerned authorities.

It was found out that they purchased one way tickets for Bangkok and changed the plane at Dubai airport.

The sources disclosed the names of the hijackers' families and identified them as Mohammad al-Daouq, Abu Shaqra and the third and fourth are from the family of Al-Yafei.

The sources said the hijackers of the Kuwaiti plane belong to the "Hezbollah" (party).

The sources indicated that a mediation effort by some of the Lebanese parties for the release of the passengers might complicate the whole issue, the paper concluded.

Eyewitnesses Say Hijackers Lebanese

LD051421 Tehran IRNA in English 1417 GMT 5 Dec 84

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 5, IRNA — three passengers of the hijacked Kuwaiti airliner, who are among the latest group released, told IRNA this afternoon that they thought the hijackers were Lebanese. They said the American and Kuwaiti passengers are being kept in the front section of the aircraft.

The released passengers, said that the name of the leader of the hijackers is "Abulhassan" and name of the two others "are Saeed (or Samir) and Khalid."

At the beginning of the ordeal the hijackers seemed nervous, but later became calm and treated those on board politely, the passengers told IRNA.

According to these passengers who were among the last group freed by the hijackers, two Kuwaiti nationals who are suffering from nervous disorders are being kept in the first class section of the aircraft.

They further told IRNA that all together there were 27 Kuwaiti and Pakistani military personnel on board the plane.

The hijackers at 13:33 local time (10:03 GMT) released another group of 23 passengers, bringing the total number of the released passengers to 67.

Kuwaiti Official Thanks Iran

LD042134 Tehran IRNA in English 2115 GMT 4 Dec 84

[Excerpts] Tehran Dec 5 IRNA — The Kuwaiti Deputy Foreign Minister Shaykh Rashid al-Rashid, has thanked the Iranian officials for their efforts in releasing some of the passengers of the hijacked Kuwaiti plane which was forced to land at Tehran's Mehrabad Airport Tuesday morning.

The verbal message of the Kuwaiti deputy foreign minister was conveyed to the Iranian Foreign Ministry officials by the Kuwaiti charge d'affaires in Tehran, Qasim Ma'arefi.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Praises Montazeri Address to Majlis

LD020954 Tehran IRNA in English 0941 GMT 2 Dec 84

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 2, IRNA — The Majlis speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, speaking in the open session of the Majlis here Sunday praised recent statements made by Ayatollah Hoseyn 'Ali Montazeri in a meeting with Majlis deputies.

Ayatollah Montazeri, in the meeting, in the holy city of Qom last Thursday, urged them to concentrate their efforts on vital issues of the country, especially the Iraqi-imposed war and the economy. He also appealed to them not to remain indifferent towards what goes on in the country.

The Majlis speaker hoped that Ayatollah Montazeri would continue to provide the Majlis deputies with further guidelines.

Besides ethical and religious issues, he said, the ayatollah should assist the Majlis deputies in subjects such as the distribution of farm land and other major issues.

Further in his speech, Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani referrred to the martyrdom anniversary of Imam Hassan Asgari (A.S.), 11th imam of Shi'ite Muslims. He expressed his condolences to Imam Khomeyni and the Iranian Muslim people in this connection.

Montazeri Receives Reports on Kordestan

GF040630 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 4 Dec 84

[Excerpts] According to a report by our correspondent, during the past 2 days Hojjat ol-Eslam Mahallati, representative of imam to the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps; and Messers Amini and Mas'udi, members of Qom Seminary, met and held discussions with Grand Ayatollah Montazeri separately. Messers Amini and Mas'udi gave a detailed report of their visit to Kordestan and the situation at the front in that area and its needs.

Economic Problems Noted in 1985 Budget Plan

GF010800 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 1 Dec 84

[Commentary from the Central News Unit research group]

[Excerpts] On Tuesday, 27 November, the prime minister, Mir Hoseyn Musavi, presented the 1985 budget for the entire country to the Islamic Majlis. It was presented on time, even with war conditions in the country. The government's efforts were lauded by the speaker of the Islamic Majlis.

In presenting this bill and keeping in mind that the 1985 budget bill is the fourth budget compiled under Musavi's government, the deputies of the Islamic Majlis will debate and discuss questions on whether the weaknesses and deficits of the past year have been eliminated in this budget and whether the trend of the budget contains the necessary efforts for meeting the objectives of the Islamic society. An assessment of the details enumerated by Musavi and the highlights of the 1985 budget can clarify most of the facts.

Despite all the problems of budget planning and the pressure on the government schemes in the years following the victory of the Islamic Revolution, the gross national product, which registered a decline of 14.6 percent in 1980, rose by 2.8 percent and 15.2 percent in 1981 and 1982, respectively. This is evidence that the government has surmounted most of its obstacles. Among its numerous problems, the war — which according to the imam is a divine blessing and the reason for tapping the latent talents of the industrialists and innovators of this land — also had some deleterious effects on the economy, because its expenditures have affected the planning system of the Islamic Republic since 1980. It has increased from 641 billion rials in 1980 to 1,303 billion rials in 1984. There has been a concomitant increase in peripheral expenditures, such as the cost of reconstruction of war-stricken areas, which comprised 40 percent of the 1984 budget. This amount plays a negative role in economic roulette due to a lack of feedback in war expenditures. In order to prevent the growth of inflation and to maintain a foreign exchange position, it is necessary to have correct control [over expenditures] to form the desired budget.

On the basis of these needs and despite these difficulties, the dedicated government has kept in view the inflationary pressure of the war and the above-mentioned problems in the compilation of the budget. It has indicated three salient objectives, which are: reining in inflation, maintaining and increasing the rate of production, and attempting to create productive employment.

Obviously, in order to achieve these objectives the government will pay due attention to the estimated budget deficit. Musavi estimates it to be 394.5 billion rials.

The government has included certain measures in the 1985 budget for this reason. As stated by Musavi, they are: In order to minimize the deficit in the budget, a reduction in expenditures as much as possible is planned. Second, by certain drastic and diligent measures in increasing the solid income of the government, loans from the Central Bank must be decreased. We must stress the need for reducing the overall volume of spending in the national budget for large-scale economizing in present government expenditures and developmental plans.

In any case, the 1985 budget has been presented to the Islamic Majlis at the specified time with the characteristics mentioned above. We hope that it will be approved by the Majlis in a proper manner and that it will remove our economic problems.

Armed Forces Joint Staff Communique No 1,931

LD041506 Tehran IRNA in English 1500 GMT 4 Dec 84

[Text] Tehran Dec. 4, IRNA — A Joint Staff communique published here Tuesday by the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran and numbered 1,931 said that sporadic artillery fire was traded between Iran's Muslim fighters and the Iraqi soldiers in many of the battlefronts on Monday.

Artillery fighting raged heavier in battlefronts in Ilam Province and in the regions of Qasr-e Shirin and Paveh. The Iraqi troops incurred material losses and human casualties in the said fronts, and their motor columns were pounded by the Iranian forces.

In the southern fronts, the Iranian troops opened fire on enemy troops and their engineering divisions and checked their operations, and across the Arvand River the Iraqi troops lost one mortar launcher and six of their artillery emplacements were pounded.

On Monday the Iraqi forces shelled the city of Abadan in Khuzestan Province damaging several houses in the city. Also on the same day several Iraqi aircraft were detected by the Iranian Air Force and were immediately repelled by the surface-to-air fire of the Iranian forces.

Troops, Reconstruction Forces Leave for Battlefronts

LD010946 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0230 GMT 1 Dec 84

[Text] The departure for the fronts of war against the Zionist enemy by our country's combative and ever-present young men continues. In this connection, over the past 2 days, a large group of the Mobilization selfless fighters and members of the Islamic revolution Guards Corps from the cities of Zanjuan, Karaj, Kashan, Shiraz, Nur, Qa'emshahr, Arsenjan, Semironm, Khansar, Komeschecha, and Khomeyni Shahr have left for the country's war zones to give help to the heroic men on the battlefronts of light against darkness, amid a rousing send-off and resounding slogans chanted by the ever-present citizens of their cities.

Also during the same period a large group of our specialist brothers, including relief workers, drivers, battery manufacturers, welders, cooks, lathe workers, and simple popular forces left for the country's war-ravaged zones to reconstruct them.

Gendarmerie Operations Around Tabriz Detailed

LD031114 Tehran IRNA in English 1010 GMT 3 Dec 84

[Text] Tabriz, Dec 3, IRNA — The Gendarmerie of the Islamic Republic of Iran has an active presence in over 85 percent of the axis of West Azarbaijan and Kordestan Provinces to mop up the area of counterrevolutionaries, said Gendarmerie Commander, Col. Ali Kuchekzideh here Sunday.

Col Kuchekzideh arrived in this capital city of East Azarbaijan Province to inspect Gendarmerie units stationed in border areas in both East and West Azarbaijan Provinces.

He stressed that plans were underway to root out counterrevolutionaries from the area and restore security there.

Later, the Gendarmerie commander had a meeting with Imam Khomeyni's representative in Gendarmerie personnel in mopping up Kordestan and Azarbaijan Provinces of counterrevolutionaries.

Conscription Office States Exemptions to Regulations

LD031254 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 3 Dec 84

[Excerpts] In implementing the new regulations concerning conscription, the Conscription Office of the Gendarmerie of the Islamic Republic of Iran announced that ordinary conscripts and those who gained their national high school diploma and higher National Diploma as of 20 March 1958; those who gained their bachelor's or master's or doctorate degree, except for doctors of medicine as of 20 March 1954, and doctors, dentists, pharmacists and veterinary surgeons who graduated before March 1948 are exempt from national service only if they have not altered their age on their birth certificates. Their birth certificate will serve as their national service termination document.

Student Teachers Exempted

LD031203 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 3 Dec 84

[Text] The teacher training office of the Education and Training Ministry announced: In accordance with a pamphlet issued by the Joint Staff Command of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran, all applicants for teacher training who have successfully passed the entrance examinations for the year 21 March 1984 to 20 March 1985 will be exempted from military services. Therefore, all those who took part in the exams while doing thier military service or who were called up after the exam and before the announcement of the results, will be discharged from military service.

Baghdad Said To Pressure Kuwait Over Islands

LD040327 Tehran IRNA in English 1916 GMT 3 Dec 84

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 3, IRNA — In November Kuwait's Crown Prince and Prime Minister Sheikh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah visited Baghdad for talks with Baghdad officials in relation with a long-term cession of parts of the Persian Gulf territories of Kuwait to the Baghdad government. The talks [words indistinct] by Iran to the Kuwaiti Government of the implications of such a decision in relation with the Iraq-Iran war and its unwelcome consequences to Kuwait. Fearing a head-on encounter with Iran, Kuwait immediately seized the opportunity as a case for rejecting Baghdad's proposal. Dismayed of Kuwait's refusal to agree to the deal, Iraq then pushed a division of her Army into the Kuwaiti territory.

The following is a commentary by IRNA's commentator on the developments in Iraq-Kuwait relations in light of the story.

Policy-makers in Baghdad have, for some time now, been preoccupied with the idea of how best they can blackmail the Kuwaiti Government and push it to yield to Iraq's terms for what they have introduced as a proposed solution to their border disputes. Successive Iraqi governments and obviously on top of them all, the now ruling Ba'th government in Baghdad have flattered themselves with hopes of getting parts of the Kuwaiti territories and specifically its Persian Gulf islands of Bubiyan, Faylaka, and Warbah.

Hard pressed by the closure of its Persian Gulf outlet for exporting its oil and finding its troops almost bogged in Shatt al Arab, Iraq has for some time now been finding itself in a military dead-lock as well as vulnerable in an encounter with the Iranian forces. Baghdad has been giving wishful hopes of access to the Persian Gulf as a larger elbow-room wherein to maneuver its fleet.

But what prompts Saddam Husayn to long for his title to the islands is even beyond political, economic and military ambitions. He is driven first by an inner urge for supremacy and selfish motives.

Kuwait has long evaded diplomatic pressure from Baghdad directed at making it yield to some sort of a ceding the three islands to Iraq. Kuwait managed this time, too, to maneuver out

of Baghdad's pressure for getting the islands on a so-called 99-year-cession treaty. Disappointed by Kuwait's response, Baghdad turned to exploiting political and even military countermeasures against Kuwait, and occasionally against certain other Arab states, a behaviour which also indicates a widening distance between Baghdad and its allies.

But pressures from Baghdad have continued all the same. Last month the Kuwaiti Government commissioned its prime minister Sheikh Sa'd Al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah on a visit to Baghdad for border talks with the Iraqi officials. The visit was followed by a report on talks between the Kuwaiti prime minister and the Iraqi officials in turn bringing Iran's frown and open warnings to Kuwait among them the most outspoken by Majlis Speaker Hojatt ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

Finding it hard to cope with threats by Iran, Kuwait lost no time this time to remind Baghdad of Iran's threats as good excuse to reject Baghdad's terms. Not precisely an 'excuse' though, knowing that once ceded to Iraq, its three Persian Gulf islands would be exploited as military bases against Iran entailing Kuwait's eventual confrontation with Iran, was sufficiently a justifiable reason to the Kuwaitis for refusing the proposed deal. Apprehensive of the implications of the situation and the hazards facing it, Kuwait moved ahead with plans to reaffirm its ownership of the islands.

Disappointed by ineffectual schemes for attaining original objectives, Baghdad shortly embarked on a military thrust into the Kuwaiti territory as an alternate plan, pushing a division of its Armed Forces into Kuwait. Kuwaiti officials who had earlier on tried their best to assure Iran that Kuwait had turned down Baghdad's proposal, this time hastened to deny the news of the crossing of their borders by the Iraqi forces. The thrust of the Iraqi forces to the Kuwaiti territory betrayed Baghdad's restlessness to realize unfulfilled ambitions.

Baghdad already receiving some 40 billion dollars in aid from the member countries of the (Persian) Gulf Cooperation Council recently urged Kuwaiti officials to win the agreement of member countries on financing 37-billion-dollars in foreign loans payable by Baghdad. Whether or not the council has undertaken to do this is not yet know, the issue like the topic of the islands has remained in a cloud of doubt...

The rulers of the Persian Gulf states apparently have already realized that a peace such as they are after would only end in returning life to a half-dead creature which once back on its feet would threaten its own rescuers more than other people.

One naturally often wonders how a group of sheikhs in the Persian Gulf who already need some sort of external help for resisting any invasion from a foreign country can manage to safeguard their own integrity after Saddam Husayn and his men have risen to their feet again.

Afghan Mujahidin Attack Officials' Residence

LD031742 Tehran IRNA in English 1635 GMT 3 Dec 84

[Text] New Delhi, Dec. 3, IRNA — Muslim Afghan mujahidin attacked the residence of high government officials in the eastern neighborhood of Kandahar Andehar and killed six of the officials. The building was completely burnt down in the attack, said resistance sources here.

In the November 24 attack, heavy weapons including rockets were used by the Muslim fighters.

The Soviet have since increased security arrangments and have placed mines around residential buildings.